RAISING POULTRY ON THE FARM.

The general-purpose breeds of poultry, such as the Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds and Orpingtons, should be kept on the farm, rather than small-egg breeds or small mongrel stock. It should also be remembered that the dark-plumaged varieties do not, as a rule, look as well when dressed as poultry of other colors.

Usually more interest is taken with a flock of fowls that are of the same breed and color, and it is an established fact that such a flock produces a more uniform product, which invariably secures to the owner higher prices than can be derived from the product of a mongrel flock.

As soon as the hatching season is over all male birds should be marketed, they having no influence whatever on the number of eggs laid, and eggs produced by flocks composed of females only keep much better than eggs from hens that are allowed to run with males.

As soon as the cockerels weigh three-quarters of a pound they should be pened—for 10 or 12 days and fed all they will eat of corn chop or wet mash composed of two parts corn meal, one part bran and one part lowgrade flour. If this mixture can be dampened with skim milk, it will add much to its fattening and bleaching qualities. Birds that are being fattened should be fed in troughs rather than in litter, as exercise at this time is not conducive to rapid gains in weight. The birds should be kept quiet as possible.

FIGHTING MELON APHIS.

Melon growers around Rocky Ford, Colo., where canteloupes are grown extensively, find that the best way to fight melon aphis is to burn the infested vines just where they are. At least every other day they get over their patch of vines and look for the very dark green color and swollen plants. A little later the leaves and vines take on a black, powdery cast that no one can mistake. The leaves curl under, but do not begin to wilt sometimes for days.

By keeping careful watch and destroying the plants as they show the presence of aphis, one can usually control the pest. Scatter straw over the infested hill and burn at once. To attempt to carry the vines to the edge of the field will simply spread the insect.

After burning a hill keep careful watch over adjoining hills, to see that the insects have not spread. Of course, the same treatment is recommended for cucumbers.

TO DEVELOP MILK IN MARES.

Frequently mares fail to develop milk after dropping a colt. I have had such experiences during my breeding career of 33 years, and now would like to tell how I remedy the trouble. I take a pail of water, as hot as the hand can be held in, and foment the udder with it by holding the pail directly under it, manipulating the udder and teats for half an hour. While doing this let the mare be eating a warm bran mash. I have never failed to bring milk in half an hour. Do this as soon as the absence of milk is noticed.—O. T. Minn.

EGG-LAYING OF ORCHARD PESTS.

There is no definite rule that can be laid down with reference to the time at which winged insect pests of the orchard deposit their eggs. Some are night flying insects and deposit their eggs at night; others are active only during the day, and deposit their eggs during that time. The codling moth is one of the night flying insects and begin to deposit eggs late in the evening, just about dusk, and continues most active throughout the early part of the night. The curculio on the other hand, is most active during the day, remaining inactive at night. The same holds true with reference to the general activity of insects. As a rule the moths fly only at night, while some of the beetles are most active at night and others during the day.

KEEP CALVES WELL BEDDED.

The stomach of the little calf is very sensitive and easily ruined. Nothing will do it quicker than keeping the animal confined in a wet, dirty pen. Clean the calf pen often and bed it with a liberal supply of dry straw oftener. It is no little labor to keep a stall where several calves run clean and dry, but there is no other way if you want to raise good calves. Eternal vigilance is the price of everything good in the stock line.

Bees and fruit go well together. The bees gather honey from the blossoms and in return fertilize them. The hum of these industrious workers in the orchard foretells rich harvests. Under the trees is a good place for the hives.

INSECT INJURY TO PEANUTS.

It has been estimated that the peanut industry in the United States, for the year 1911, amounted to $15,000,000, and that about 20 per cent of the peanuts grown are injured by insects bringing the estimate of annual loss to $3,000,000.

Until recently the peanut was considered practically immune from insect injury, the growing plants suffering no noticeable damage, while the "nuts" are protected by their shells from the usual insect enemies of stored products. With the advent of the mechanical thresher or "peanut picker" this injury has greatly increased, amounting to as high as 30 per cent. This is due to the tendency of operators to feed the nuts too quickly through the machine, resulting in broken shells, which afford easy entrance to insect pests and to the practice of piling sacked nuts high in storage warehouses, and climbing upon the sacks, thus breaking the shells and increasing the percentage of infestation. The insect principally concerned in injury to the stored product is the Indian meal moth. Its caterpillar, which, when fully grown, measures about half an inch length, develops with great rapidity and if not checked does consequent serious injury. The moth which lays the eggs which produce this destructive caterpillar appears in the Virginia peanut-growing region in March and April, and by June the first new generation or "brood" of moths first becomes noticeable in numbers. Later, other generations are produced—as many as four in ordinary temperatures and still more in heated buildings.

Two effective methods of control may be employed with excellent results—heat and fumigation. Heat is applicable only to mills or storage rooms heated by steam. By employing steam at a pressure of 75 to 100 pounds, a temperature of 120 degrees F. may be easily produced on a hot day in summer. This temperature, if maintained for about six hours, readily penetrates the bags and destroys the contained insects. The temperature should not be raised above 125 degrees F., as experiments have shown that blanching and slipping of the skin are apt to take place at high ertemperatures, especially with shelled Spanish nuts.

A considerable degree of prevention of injury may be accomplished by the grower and packer in the proper handling of the peanuts. Infestation may begin in the storage sheds or barns and is especially apt to be where the nuts are held over summer. By avoiding this practice much injury can be prevented. The same applies to the practice of crowding the mechanical pickers or threshers, especially those of the "cylinder" type, which results in broken peanut shells. The peanuts should be stored in light, well-ventilated buildings, preferably in concrete, brick or stone structures rather than in loose frame buildings. In addition to the necessity of fumigating or heating the storage plant it may be found advisable to fumigate the freight cars used in transporting the nuts.

THE CATALPA.

Catalpas are quick growing trees, and the heart wood forms early, making them valuable for early marketing or home use. The wood is light in weight, strong, durable and straight grained. After once planted the forest is permanent, sprouts always coming up from the stump after cutting, and later growths are more rapid than earliear ones, due, no doubt, to the deep rooting of the older stumps. Later care consists in trimming out and burning excess of unprofitable sprouts, which in time may be of considerable value in some line of manufacturing, or perhaps fertilizer.

OYSTER SHELLS FOR FOWLS.

The feeding of oyster shells is claimed to supply the birds with grit, but experiments show that under circumstances in which no lime can be procured in any other manner oyster shells may be utilized by the hens to supply shells for the eggs. It is not necessary to feed shells, however, when the fowls are supplied with varied food, as the food of poultry contains lime sufficient for all purposes.

A chicken's stomach is not made of iron, and the same diet day after day harms them as much as it does a human.

THE DAHLIA AND ITS CULTURE.

There is a wide range of ideas relative to the best methods of growing the Dahlia for the best results.

My idea is a Dahlia that can be planted June 1st, come into bloom about August 15th and be in full by September 1st, a free, early bloomer bright colors, long stems and good plump tubers.

There are three methods of propagation—from seeds, from cuttings from tubers started under glass and by divisions of old clumps.

Seedling plants are unsatisfactory as there is only a small proportion of good ones for the effort expended.

Green-grown plants give in most cases the best results for cut flowers in a number of ways.

My preference is from division of old tubers cut as small as possible, planted the latter part of May. When about four inches high top them. If they are in good rich soil and conditions are very good I would top these a second time as soon as they make growth enough to do so and give good culture, but they should be planted deeply and as they progress should be cultivated so that the soil makes quite a ridge.

The culture should be with a view also of firming the soil as much as possible for the best results, as the radiation of moisture from loose soil is trying to Dahlias for the best results.

The whole idea in growing Dahlias is to have them make a constant, rapid growth. Where Dahlias are planted with large divisions the soil gets so filled with roots that when a dry spell sets in they check and become stunted, thus they are a failure.

Should such conditions be apparent the best thing to do is to cut them back to induce a new growth and give a little dressing of manure to force them along.

When green plants are wanted they should be started into growth any time after Christmas and cuttings taken as soon as large enough to do so. These should be potted up as soon as ready out of the sand beds into poor soil, as rich soil induces a soft growth. The poor soil makes a better plant and more vigorous and less liable to damage while under glass.

We top them when planting about June 1st and give a second topping as soon as possible, thus the plants remain shorter, and the yield is greater. But in any event we allow but one stem to grow. The Dahlia is a gross feeder and should have plenty of water, especially during dry times for best results.

If these plants are given the attention as above there is no reason why any one should not have an abundance of blooms.

The following are very good early, free-blooming sorts:

For show—A. D. Livonia, pink; Arabella, yellow suffused rose at tips; White Swan, fine white; Hector, rich brick red; Frank Smith, maroon, mottled white; Amos Perry, rich scarlet; Countess of Lonsdale, salmon red; Floradora, rich maroon crimson; J. H. Jackson, very dark maroon; Standard Bearer, fine red; Winsome, best white; Wm. Castle, rich yellow.

For decoration—C. W. Burton, rich yellow; Black Beauty, maroon black; F. L. Bassett, rich purple; Jack Rose, rich "Jack Rose" red; Orange King, orange red; Sylvia, fine pink; Wm. Agnew, rich scarlet.

Dahlia roots should be stored in a temperature of about 40 to 50 degrees. They should be harvested as soon as slightly frosted, the soil shaken off and packed in boxes and covered with burlap to prevent drying out. They should not be kept where damp conditions prevail.

USEFUL DAIRY HINTS.

The price of dairy animals is steadily rising and the demand for good, young dairy cows is greater than the supply.

Breed to the very best dairy bull possible and save and care for well all of the heifer calves. They will be worth good money to you or to somebody else at two years of age with the first calf at their side.

Fill the producing cows up on clover hay or alfalfa hay if you can get it instead of fodder or other coarse stuff containing low feed values.

The sensible dairyman does not expect something for nothing and a cow cannot give a full flow of milk on feeds that do not contain sufficient milk elements.

Oats, wheat, bran, oil meal and shorts should supplement the clover hay.

Feed some ground corn but do not make it the sole concentrated ration.

When taking up plants for setting out never pull them, but lift them with a dibble or caseknife and keep them well covered when taking to the field or garden. If the soil is dry it is well to put some water into the hole, made for the plant, so that the earth will be puddled about the roots, but be sure, after firming the soil well, to draw some loose dry soil over the damp ground so that it may not bake.

Shear the sheep before their wool gets to be a burden.

WHERE THE APPLE CAME FROM.

There are two varieties of apple found wild in Europe, but the region adjacent to the Caspian seems to have been the birthplace of the apple as known in the East. Charred pieces of apples are found in the heaps or refuse left by the Lake Dwellers, who occupied parts of Europe before any of the present races. These people lived on platforms laid over piles driven into the water—probably to protect themselves from animals, in an era before metal weapons were known. These specimens of apples are generally carbonized by heat, but they show perfectly the internal structure of the fruit. There are five species of native American apples, all of them crabs. John Smith wrote from Virginia that he had found "some very crabapples, but they were small and bitter." New Englanders made the same report. The Soulard has the reputation of being the largest and best of these natives. Sprouts of this variety, like the Matthews, are improved in size and quality. Selections might probably be made from Western tthickets, of even better sorts than are now known. I believe the blood of the wild crab is in some of our best orchard apples.—E. P. Powell.

SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO MAKE MONEY.

To keep the boy on the farm he should first be given the chance to make some money by giving him a start with poultry or something of the kind and give him a piece of land on which to raise vegetables and fruits for the market.

He should be given a comfortable room, books, good light, warmth, a desk and writing materials.

For out-door work build him a small shop, with tools. Let him invite boy friends to visit him.

When he wishes to go to town with you let him go until he learns the way around—and the right way.

Get him a telescope to look at the stars and a microscope to study the minute plants and insects. Let him have a gun and plenty of ammunition for hunting birds, rabbits and squirrels. The exercise will keep him strong and healthy.

A boy treated in this manner should be contented.

TASTE HAS IMPROVED.

Goatas with a pronounced taste for lingerie, are said to be making life uncomfortable for women of a suburban section of Philadelphia. Until recently the goats seemed to be content with tomato cans and wash boilers, but now nothing will suffice but the daintiest of muslins, and wardrobes are growing so depleted, that irate bands of householders are forming to kill the animals, unless steps are taken by the authorities to keep them penned up.

If you want a long season of peas plant from the earliest dwarf to the latest tall growing sort. The latter must have some support and three-foot poultry netting is ideal for the purpose. Late peas should be planted deep if the soil is loose and mellow, and when the plants are beginning to vine, mulch heavily and they will bear much longer. Peas are cool weather plants and like a cool, moist soil, which condition can be secured by mulching.

Action is extremely important in light horses. It should be straight and true. At the trot is should be what is known as the straight line trot, no wabbling from one side to the other, or swinging the feet. The action from behind should be straight, the feet picked up smartly, hocks well flexed and the feet or both fore and hind legs at each step placed immediately in front of the former position.

ORIGIN OF THE POTATO.

The potato, which was already cultivated in America when the continent was discovered, is spontaneous in Chile. It was introduced to Europe in 1580 and 1585 by the Spaniards, and almost at the same time by the English, who brought it from Virginia, where it had appeared about 1550. The sweet potato and the Jerusalem artichoke are also supposed to come from America.

Throw flour, not water, on kerosene flames.